

Claim 2, line 2, change "is made from" to --comprise--.

Claim 3, line 2, change "are" to --comprise--.

Claim 4, line 2, change "are" to --comprise--.

Claim 5, line 2, change "is made from" to --comprises--.

Claim 6, line 2, after "adhesive" insert --to said front tip--.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Page 12, line 2, delete in its entirety.

line 3, delete in its entirety and insert --An instrument for removing

~~proliferative~~;

line 4, change "disorders." to --disorders includes--.

line 5, delete "The invention is directed to".

line 6, change "comprises" to -- the tool including--.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated under Shimizu; Claims 2-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Calhoun; Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Takahashi et al and Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Morcher et al. Claims 1-6 remain active.

The present invention is directed to an instrument for removing proliferative membranes in a treatment for proliferative vitreoretinal disorders including an ophthalmic treatment tool for using in a ophthalmic surgery wherein the tool includes a grip portion, a rod-shaped body attached to one end of the grip portion, an elastic body fitted along a direction toward a front end of the rod-shaped body to the front end side of the rod-shaped body and a plurality of hard inorganic fine-grains or particles fixed on a tapered tip of the elastic body.

As can be appreciated from review of Figures 1a, 1b, and 1c and a review of pages 7-8 of the specification, the hard inorganic fine grains are fixed on the tapered front end of the elastic body and are located in a range of 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm from a tip end of the front end portion of the front tip and the elastic body has a hollowed tapered front tip for the evacuation of that portion of the membrane removed by the inorganic fine-grains.

|, Considering first then the rejection of Claim 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Shimizu, it is noted that Claim 1 has been properly amended so as to be more closely directed to a membrane eraser used for ophthalmic surgery. More particularly, the membrane eraser is claimed as including an elastic body having a hollowed tapered front tip in combination with a plurality of hard inorganic fine-grains fixed on a tapered front tip of the elastic member where the grains are located in a range of 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm from a tip-end portion of the front tip. This is clearly distinguished from the nail file filing an individual's nails as shown in Shimizu which neither comprises a hollow tapered front tip of an elastic body nor does the same teach limiting the location of the grains to the range presently claimed and instead teaches only the utilization of an abrasive sheet 9 which extends substantially the entire length of the holding member of two connecting portions 6, as best

illustrated in each of Figures 2B and 3B thereof. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 clearly patently defines over the Shimizu and that Claim 4, based both upon the limitations set forth therein and based upon the dependency of Claim 4 from Claim 1, also merits indication of allowability.

Considering next the rejection of Claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Calhoun, the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Takahashi et al and the rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Morcher et al, it is respectfully submitted that none of the above-noted secondary references teach or disclose Applicants' claimed inventions, as now amended. More particularly, Calhoun, Takahashi et al and Morcher each do not teach an elastic body having a hollow tapered front tip or teach that a plurality of inorganic fine-grains are fixed on a tapered front tip of the elastic body wherein the grains are located in a range of 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm from a tip end portion of the front tip. The failure of these references to teach or disclose these limitations can be readily understood from a review of Calhoun which is directed merely to an abrasive article having a lateral spacing between abrasive composite members while Takahashi et al only teaches an endoscope having a combination urging and covering member that not only covers the outer circumferential portion of a flexible tube but which also urges the flexible tube in a manner to be secured to a first tapered portion. Lastly, it is noted that Morcher only teaches an intraocular lens and method for implanting the same in a posterior chamber of an eye having a posterior capsule.

Applicants further submit that, due to the different structure and functioning of each of Calhoun, Takahashi et al, and Morcher et al, these references would clearly not be

obviously combinable with the nail file shown in Shimizu and, even if considered to be combinable, would clearly not result in Applicants' claimed invention. In view of this and in view of the fact that each of the limitations of Claims 2-6 have no corresponding teaching or disclosure in the above-noted references, it is submitted that each of Claims 2-6 also merit indication of allowability.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is felt to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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